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REVIEWS

SURGICAL TECHNIQUE. By Stephen Power, M.S., F.R.C.S. Second Edition. (Pp. x+411; figs. 198. 40s.) London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd., 1959.

THIS book has been written with the difficulties of the young surgical registrar in mind. It has attracted enough interest already to warrant a second edition. Priced at 40s., this book can reasonably be owned rather than borrowed.

Under the present system of surgical training, the prospective surgeon finds himself all too often left to his own resources. Larger operative surgical manuals supply details of operations but assume a knowledge of surgical technique. Stephen Power's book of surgical technique is therefore complementary to the larger surgical manuals as it supplies an answer to the more immediate ward and theatre problems which confront the hospital registrar.

Information is supplied on ward techniques, theatre management, operative techniques, surgical materials, and surgical instruments, and the comments and illustrations are completely clear.

One can recommend this book highly, as it fulfils in every way its aim of assisting the surgical apprentice who does not have an attentive senior constantly giving instruction.

W. T. C.

AN INTRODUCTION TO MEDICAL GENETICS. By J. A. Fraser Roberts, M.A., M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P. Second Edition. (Pp. xii+263; figs. 107. 35s.) London: Oxford University Press, 1959.

THE reviewer has always considered that for medical readers the first edition of this book, published in 1940, was by far the best introduction to genetics. Here is the long-awaited second edition. Though the book has been largely rewritten and many new examples, especially those relating to the blood group systems and the abnormal hæmoglobins, have been added, the approach is basically the same. Genetic principles are only briefly described, but are clearly illustrated and derived from examples of human inheritance. A most valuable chapter is now included on genetic prognosis, but the author refrains from an attempt to list human inherited abnormalities. Readers will hope that the companion handbook, promised by the author as an attempt to cover this most difficult subject, will soon appear since the literature still remains scattered and somewhat uncritical. This is not a book for hurried reference or casual reading, and the somewhat inadequate index is perhaps no real disadvantage. Every medical man reading it will have his horizon broadened and his mental processes stimulated.

J. E. M.